

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 /061 W

----- 089017

R 190716Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5220

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 2746

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, SHUM, TW

SUBJECT: COMMUTATION OF PRISON SENTENCES

REF: TAIPEI 2121 (NOTAL)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. THE EXECUTIVE YUAN APPROVED THE DRAFT STATUTE FOR THE COMMUTATION OF SENTENCES IN MEMORY OF THE LATE PRESIDENT CHIANG ON MAY 15 AND SUBMITTED IT TO THE LEGISLATIVE YUAN FOR ACTION. THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE STATUTE IS EXPECTED TO BE JULY 14, THE HUNDRETH DAY AFTER THE BURIAL OF PRESIDENT CHIANG--ONE OF THE SPECIAL DAYS FOLLOWING A FUNERAL ACCORDING TO CHINESE CUSTOM.  
END UNCLASSIFIED.

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

2. THE INTENTION TO COMMUTE SENTENCES WAS ANNOUNCED ON APRIL 20 (REFTEL) AND WE UNDERSTAND THERE HAVE BEEN  
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EXTENSIVE--IF NOT HEATED--DISCUSSIONS AMONG CONCERNED

ORGANIZATIONS SINCE THAT TIME ON THE SCOPE OF THE COMMUTATION. EMBASSY LOCAL CONTACTS ARE DIVIDED ON THE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF COMMUTATION: MANY SEE IT AS A GESTURE TO THE TAIWANESE (SOME TAIWANESE EVEN ANTICIPATE A NUMBER OF THE MORE PROMINENT DISSIDENTS MAY BE RELEASED); OTHERS, PRINCIPALLY IN INTELLECTUAL AND YOUTH CIRCLES, SUGGEST THE ACTION MAY BE A GESTURE TO THE PRC. AMONG THE LATTER, COMMUTATION IS INTERPRETED VARIOUSLY AS (1) PROOF TO THE PRC THAT THE GROC CAN WITHSTAND GRAND GESTURES SUCH AS THE RELEASE OF KMT "WAR CRIMINALS" WHILE GOING ONE BETTER AND/OR (2) A RECIPROCAL GESTURE ENCOURAGING THE PRC TO TAKE FURTHER POSITIVE STEPS IN ROC/PRC "DETENTE".

3. THE EMBASSY IS NOT RPT INCLINED TO SEE THIS ACTIONS AS A POSITIVE GESTURE TO THE PRC--INDEED THE COMMUTATION SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDES THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND COMMITTED CERTAIN CRIMES OF SEDITION--AND BELIEVES THE TARGET AUDIENCE IS PROBABLY THE TAIWANESE. WE WILL BE REPORTING IN GREATER DETAIL ONCE WE HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CAREFUL REVIEW OF THE STATUTE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS. HOWEVER, FINAL ANSWERS AS TO THE SCOPE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS COMMUTATION MUST, OF COURSE, AWAIT JULY 14 WHEN WE CAN SEE WHO IS RELEASED. END CONFIDENTIAL POPPLE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PENAL REFORM, AMNESTY, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Review Authority:** ElyME  
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**Review Date:** 15 JUL 2003  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** COMMUTATION OF PRISON SENTENCES  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, SHUM, TW, (CHIANG CHING-KUO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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